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To: [Supervisor Gorell](#); [Long, Kelly](#); [Supervisor Parvin](#); [Elections-Ventura County](#); [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: BOS Agenda Item No. 12 (or Open Comments)
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Hello **Ventura County Board of Supervisors** and **Registrar of Voters**,
I am writing to let you know that I am concerned about the way elections are being conducted in Ventura County.
I do not support following the **Voters Choice Act (VCA)** and the way the **VCA** conducts the elections process, because I believe it creates more ways for cheating to occur while condoning the following election practices:

- **Universal mail-in-ballots**
- **Ballot drop boxes**
- **Voting Centers** open multiple days, instead of One-Day voting at the precinct level.
- **Centralized vote processing** / counting at the Ventura County Government Center, instead of precinct level processing / counting.
 - Including pre-processing & counting ballots before election day.
- **Computers & machines** used for digital voting and processing of ballots without a practical way to 100% audit the votes.

I will break down each of the above-mentioned bullet point concerns with the **VCA** into more detail, which should help to state what should be “obvious concerns”, in my opinion. The **Registrar of Voters** office and the **Board of Supervisors** should be able to understand and address these “obvious concerns”.

Universal mail-in-ballots may sound like a good idea and the **VCA** touts the concept as a way to make it easier for more people to vote, etc., but instead of just making it easier to vote, universal-mail-in ballots “obviously” make it easier for people to “CHEAT”.

Cheating can occur in at least a couple “obvious” ways:

1. Illegally registering and obtaining ballots:

- Someone was able to register a fraudulent voter (their cat); citizen *Bruce B.* explains how he would be able to register his cat, “Felix T Cat”. He colorfully explained this on January 23rd, 2024 at the **BOS Meeting** during comments on **Item #53**. (**Minute mark 4:09:27**;
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/aZQxX-fl1Pw?si=qThi2rArmwlD3vy9&t=14967>).

2. Illegal coercion and manipulation of voters, called electioneering:

- Electioneering was explained by citizen *Michael D.* on January 23rd, 2024 at the **BOS Meeting** during comments on **Item #53. (Minute mark 4:05:08; Link: https://www.youtube.com/live/aZQxX-fl1Pw?si=ZQpKrKCypY8H_IH&t=14708)**.
 - After obtaining ballots illegally, unscrupulous perpetrators can then conveniently deposit them into **ballot drop boxes** without a trace.

Ballot drop boxes are also touted as a convenient way to get people to participate in elections and to vote. Even though **ballot drop boxes** create a convenient way to pass along a ballot, they also create more avenues for fraud:

- Ballots can be tampered with if drop boxes are not protected. Furthermore, another layer of hands are involved before a vote is counted, creating yet another avenue for tampering and fraud.
- Illegal ballots could be dropped off; including electioneered ballots as previously explained.

Voting centers (as opposed to One-Day precinct level voting) offer more convenience by allowing multiple days to vote in person at any location within the county. Sounds great, but opens another avenue for fraud:

- Since identification is not required while voting in person (which in my opinion IDs should be required) people can commit identity fraud and vote for another registered voter. This could be done at multiple locations by the same person assuming multiple identities.

Centralized vote processing also sounds like an efficient way of conducting elections, but in reality it takes more time and makes audits more difficult and makes for less specific and less useful voting data;

- Voting Centers need to package/batch votes each day and transport them to the centralized location. Each batch is then added to other batches from other locations, which makes audits less specific as to where votes are coming from and from which districts. It takes a long time to process the votes and makes auditing less practical; Instead of having many precincts that could simultaneously process/count ballots quickly in One-Day, we get mountains of ballots and one location responsible to process/count them all.
 - Precinct level voting is counted faster at each location and the data from that location is more useful.
 - Precinct level voting also makes auditing more effective and practical.

Computers and machines that are used to help process, tally, and count votes sounds like the most logical and practical way to do elections in these “modern days”

we live in. The problem that should be “obvious” is that computers and machines are not secure. Both have security vulnerabilities that can be exploited.

- More than one speaker at the recent **BOS meetings** has offered information about the security issues and concerns with computers and machines processing votes.
 - *Bruce M.* brought up some on June 18th, 2024 at the **BOS Meeting** during comments on **Item #11**. (Minute mark 49:58;
Link: https://www.youtube.com/live/_E9Enn4p_90?si=q-1wfcetdMB_LMUE&t=2998).

The bottom line is that many citizens, including myself, don't trust the **VCA** election process and we don't trust that our votes count like they should.

The **Board of Supervisors** has been alerted by the voters to many concerns with voter fraud and unsound election practices and has been asked for remedies to alleviate those concerns.

Recently, the **BOS** legal counsel, under Tiffany North, offered a report for the **Board** to “receive and file”. That report comes from one legal perspective and should not be considered a final authority. I am asking the **Board** to seek outside legal counsel that offers another perspective on the **BOS** authority, jurisdiction, and powers, regarding elections.

Another ongoing concern with elections involves issues with Illegal immigrants being able to vote.

In regards to the current humanitarian crisis of illegal immigrants being allowed to enter our great country unaccounted for and then being transported into various states throughout the country, our citizenry should be greatly alarmed. This humanitarian crisis has opened a broad avenue for voter fraud in our country. Every level of government should be concerned about illegal immigrants voting in our elections, which is for “legal citizens only”. Americans are not allowed to vote in other countries' elections and neither should illegal immigrants in our elections. As I alluded to earlier, voter ID requirements should be standard for voting. Especially when voting in person. It should not be considered “Election Suppression” to require identification when seeking to vote. It should be a common sense practice. And there are deeper issues with the State of California possibly allowing illegal immigrants to obtain drivers licenses or IDs that would allow them to register to vote, even though they are illegal immigrants and therefore should not be allotted the privilege to vote in our elections.

All of the concerns that I have shared only scratch the surface of the topic. I am asking that the **Board of Supervisors** create “**Official**” **agenda items** to have more involved and robust discussions about creating **action items** to institute the best election system possible – one that isn't riddled with concerns about election fraud like the **Voter Choice Act (VCA)**.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Damon Montanez
concerned citizen